Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 CU-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IO-13 /071 W -------040738Z 048317 /22

R 040616Z APR 77
FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7516
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
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E.O.11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR, US, CH

SUBJECT: REFERENCE NEWS AIRS ISSUES IN SINO-US NORMALIZATION

- 1. BEGIN SUMMARY. THE PRC RESTRICTED-CIRCULATION DAILY REFERENCE NEWS RECENTLY CARRIED SEVERAL ARTICLES ON SINO-US RELATIONS WITH A COMMON THEME: NOW IS THE TIME FOR MOVEMENT TOWARD FULL POLITICAL NORMALIZATION. END SUMMARY.
- 2. ... MARCH 14 ISSUE OF THE PRC RESTRICTED-CIRCULATION DAILY REFERENCE NEWS (TSAN-KAO HSIAO-HSI) CARRIED SEVERAL ARTICLES FROM THE AMERICAN PRESS LINKED TO THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE. TWO ARTICLES ARE PARTICULARLY WORTHY OF NOTE:
- --A LETTER TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES, DATED FEBRUARY 21 FROM AN ATLANTA READER, ADVOCATING CONFIDENTIAL

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AN IMMEDIATE US BREAK IN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH TAIWAN.

--AN ARTICLE PRINTED IN THE SAN DIEGO UNION PRESS ON MARCH 6 TERMING THE SIXTH YEAR OF THE NEW SINO-US RELATIONSHIP A "DECISIVE STAGE." THE ARTICLE NOTES THAT THE CHINESE RECENTLY TOLD DAVID ROCKERFELLER THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE TO DISCUSS THE FROZEN ASSETS ISSUE AND THAT THE 1976 DECLINE IN SINO-US TRADE WAS "POLITICAL." THE ARTICLE GOES ON TO DECLARE THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS CURRENTLY PREPARING TO PROPOSE TO HUA KUO-FENG THAT THE US WILL ACCEPT THE "JAPANESE FURMULA" WITH CERTAIN UNDERSTANDINGS. AMONG THESE ARE A GUARANTEE OF CONTINUED US COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH TAIWAN. THE ARTICLE, AT LEAST AS CARRIED IN REFERENCE NEWS, NOTES THAT THE US-TAIWAN MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY IS A STUMBLING BLOCK TO NORMALIZATION BUT DOES NOT OFFER ANY RESOLUTION OF THE DILEMMA.

3. COMMENT: WE PRESUME THAT THE PURPOSE IN CARRYING SUCH ARTICLES IS TWOFOLD: TO LET THE CHINESE CADRE READERSHIP KNOW THAT THE NORMALIZATION BALL IS IN THE AMERICAN COURT AND TO EDUCATE THEM ON THE COMPLEXITIES OF THE NORMALIZATION PROCESS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHMENT

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 04-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 22 May 2009 Disposition Event:

Disposition Event:
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PEKING00630
Document Source: Core

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A

Expiration: Film Number: D770116-0247 Format: TEL

From: PEKING **Handling Restrictions:**

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770491/aaaadbek.tel

Line Count: 81 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8b7179aa-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION EA

Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: NOFORN
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: NOFORN

Reference: n/a Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 29-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am

Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a

Review Media Identifier: Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 2907293 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: REFERENCE NEWS AIRS ISSUES IN SINO-US NORMALIZATION

TAGS: PFOR, US, CH

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8b7179aa-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009